to about 98.8% population of the country and also to various parts of the world (through Short Wave/MW), except in North and South America. Doordrashan signals are available in satellite mode throughout the country and also in a.number of countries in Middle-East, Africa, Asia, Europe, CIS, USA, Canada and Australia. Terrestrial Doordarshan coverage is available to about 89.4% of the population of our country.

(b)The targeted Radio andTV coverage for the year 2002-2003 is 98.83% and 91% of population of the country respectively.

(c) and (d) Installation of a number of Radio and TV Transmitters of varying capacities are under implementation for expansion of terrestrial coverage in the country. Regular monitoring of projects is undertaken at different levels to ensure their timely completion and no apparent constraints are envisaged in this endeavour.

Cases registered Against officials of Prasar Bharati

384.SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a case of cheating and criminal breach of trust has been registered against some officials of Prasar Bharati Corporation and others for causing a loss of Rs. 13.79 crore to the Corporation;

(b) if so, the officials held responsible;

(c) the fraud unearthed;

(d) the action taken against them; and

(e) the steps being taken to check such frauds in future?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATISUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e)The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Closure of Media Units

385. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry is in favour of closure of several media units including the DAVP, Directorate of Film Festivals, Films Division, Directorate of Field Publicity and Song and Drama Divison, as suggested by Expenditure Reforms Commission;

(b) whether Government are aware that if the suggestions of the ERC for introduction ofVRS is implemented, it would result in the total staff strength of the Ministry and Organisations under it, including Prasar Bharati, being reduced from 7,779 posts to 2,176 posts; and

(c) if so, the reasons for downsizing the Ministry and the amount of payment of VRS to employees involved thereby?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATISUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Menace of Video Piracy

386. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee for Development of the Entertainment Sector, Chaired by her, has considered the menace of Video piracy in the country, which is silently killing the film industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken onthe deliberations?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Committee for the Development of the Entertainment Sector has recommended that the State Police should be further educated on the provisions of the Copyright Act and its infringement through cable piracy. Accordingly, the Committee has recommended that two training modules be evolved for police officers and policemen and circulated to State Governments so that these can be incorporated in the training regimen of the law enforcement agencies at the State level. The job of preparing these training modules has been entrusted to the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, which may consult the Department of Education, which is the nodal Department formatters relating to the Copyright Act, 1957.

Anti-India propaganda by Pak TV

387. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistani TV are openly indulging in anti-India propaganda after attack on Indian Parliament by terrorists;